

MCCC NEWS

Mid-Cities Commodore Club, Inc.

August 6th Vol. 3 Issue 8



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

BILL RAECKE

The big news this month is that the MCCC Bulletin Board is operational. For those of you who have already signed up and have been using it for a month, this may no longer be big news.

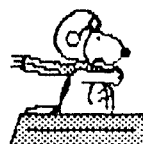
First I want to thank all the people who organized its creation and those who are playing an on-going role in its operation. The committee responsible for all the initial research, set-up and sysop selection consisted of David and Alice Rye, Roger Hoggard, Mary Louise Hagemeyer, and Paul Robinson. It was a lot of work and they did an excellent job. Next are Aaron Hightower and Craig Smith who are responsible for writing the terminal program we are now using. I don't think anyone could have asked for a more well written program. Our System-Operator is Okley Moss and Aaron Hightower will be assisting. To Okley and Aaron, our thanks. Their work is just beginning. A special thank you is also due to the charter members who have been exceptionally patient and understanding.

I also want to include a few lines explaining what our BBS will offer for those of you who have not yet signed up. Very simply, a BBS is a way for computer owners to communicate with each other. You are able to send and receive messages to and from everyone (Messages) or to and from one specific person (E-Mail or Electronic-Mail). On most Bulletin Boards you are also able to upload (send) programs to the system and to

download (receive) programs. On our BBS we have Message capabilities and E-Mail. We also allow people to download public domain programs from the system disk. This is one more way to get programs from the library. Also the BBS will provide a list of club officers and their phone numbers as well as a list of meeting times and places for the various chapters. (A good way to find meeting times if the post office holds up your newsletter). I also intend to post special bargains on hardware and software which are made available to user groups from time to time. Until the BBS, there was no way to let everyone know when these offers were available - now there is.

I hope this article has helped answer some of the questions you may have had about the BBS. If there are more please feel free to ask me or any club officer. We are glad to help.

In closing I just want to say that no matter how practical we might make the BBS sound (and it is practical) the main attraction is that its just plain fun!!



Graphics in this newsletter were drawn using Doodle! and The Print Shop. Typestyles were created using FontMaster, a new word processing program by Xetec.



The MID-CITIES COMMODORE CLUB is a non-profit organization devoted to the collection and dissemination of computer knowledge, to the encouragement of computer education and to the use of Commodore computers in the home, at school and in business. Appropriate and legal use of all types of software is encouraged by this club.

The MCCC is not connected with Commodore Business Machines Ltd. or Commodore Inc. Commodore and Commodore product names (PET, CBM, VIC and C64) are registered trademarks of Commodore Inc.

Our meetings are open to all. Yearly membership dues are \$20.00 and entitle the member to a monthly mailed copy of the MCCC NEWS, the club newsletter, library copying privileges, attendance at any or all chapter and club meetings as well as participation in club-sponsored classes. Dues are paid on a calendar year basis and new members who join after March 31 of each year pay prorated dues for the months remaining.

Material printed in the MCCC NEWS is not copyrighted unless so noted. Articles may be reprinted by other user groups or individuals who find it helpful. We only ask that proper credit is given to the author and the MCCC as the source.

The MCCC NEWS accepts advertising from both members and from commercial establishments. Member rates are free for classified ads. These ads must be computer related and not of a commercial nature. A commercial ad is defined as one where you are running a business and are selling the same item or items to many people. Members submitting such ads will be charged commercial rates.

COMMERCIAL RATES are as follows: \$60.00 per full page ad, \$30.00 per half page ad, \$20.00 per quarter page ad and \$10.00 per business card. Non-members will pay commercial rates.

The deadline for submissions to the MCCC NEWS is the third Saturday of each month. PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY CAMERA-READY AD COPY. Make all checks payable to Mid-Cities Commodore Club and mail to MCCC NEWS, P.O. Box 1578, Bedford, Texas 76021.



AUGUST						
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



MEETINGS

Aug. 3 Board of Directors Mtg. 10 AM
Western Hills Inn

Aug. 10 Grand Prairie Chapter 1:30 PM
Grand Prairie Public Library

Arlington Chapter 10:00 AM
Downtown Arlington Library

Aug. 17 Hurst-Euless-Bedford 1:30 PM
Hurst Public Library

Aug. 17th is the
Newsletter Deadline
for the September Issue.

Aug. 19 Ft. Worth Night Chapter Mtg.

Aug. 20 Grand Prairie Chapter 6 PM
Grand Prairie Public Library



COMING UP



MCCC BBS

by David Rye

MCCC Computerized Bulletin Board System is operationing! This article is a brief review containing some hints on its use.

THE TERMINAL PROGRAM

The system is a color/graphics program written by MCCC members, Aaron Hightower and Steve Craig. The color and graphics available make the system great fun while being very useful. It's fun to send a letter with a "crazy cursor", different colors in text and ringing bells!

A terminal disk is provided to each BBS member to access all the capabilities of the system. This disk contains the terminal (modem) program and a "create new user" program which is used to make a SYSTEM disk. The System disk is required to log onto the BBS. This has actually made logging on quite simple. The first time you log on, some information is verified and then you never have to remember a password again. The terminal program will also work with any other Commodore BBS as well.

The terminal program will be updated later with additional features as they are available or required. A new program will be available for download on the BBS or through the club library.

The program commands are accessed through the function keys in the following manner.

- F1 - Sends a file
- F3 - Receives a file
- F4 - Access buffer commands of
(O)pen, (C)lose, (E)rase,
(S)ave or (P)rint to screen
- F5 - Disk commands (To format,
scratch, initialize, reset,
etc.)
- F6 - reads YOUR disk directory
- F7 - shows a menu AND switches
between a Graphics Terminal
(for our BBS) or ASCII
terminal for others systems.

If you use the F7 key to get a reminder of the function keys, remember to hit it again to keep the same graphics/ascii mode you want.

The terminal program allows disk functions and has a large buffer in which to store your data. The buffer can be later displayed on screen or saved on a disk. The present version does not provide for printer output so a word processor or seq. file reader program is required for hard copy on your printer.

No autodialer is available at present so manually dialing is required. The system has been tested successfully with the Commodore 1600 and 1650 modems as well as the Westridge and Telelearning modems. Additional modems will be checked out as soon as possible.

Overall, I found the terminal program quite user-friendly. An autodialer would be nice but they differ for each modem type used. Another needed feature is sending the buffer to a printer.

THE BBS ITSELF

When you log onto the system you are greeted with a COLOR welcome screen. You are instructed to leave your SYSTEM disk in your drive without a write protect. The logon will normally be fully automatic from that point.

Information may be shared in several ways on the BBS. Personal mail can be sent between members using E-mail. General information may be made available to ALL by using the Message Base. Information may be sent to the system operator via Feedback, E-mail, or Chatting with him on-line (when he is available).

The messages may be sent as pure text or color graphics with bells. The graphics are fun, but if you expect the receiver to print out the information on a printer, regular text is preferred. The system begins in regular text. To access the color/graphics capabilities, enter CTRL-O. This turns off word wrap and turns ON the graphics. (The CTRL-O requirement was not clear to me at first so please make a note of it.) It is FUN to send a PRETTY letter with bells ringing!

I recommend that you review the message base regularly to see what is new with the club as well as instructions or changes to the BBS or Terminal programs.



Program downloads are available which send the program directly to whatever disk you have in your drive. Just select download and the you will be given a choice of programs you may receive. Tell the system which one you want and when the system tells you to begin receiving press F3 and enter the name of the file again. The two computers then take over and tell you when they are finished. Try it with a blank, formatted disk to get the feel of it. You can't hurt anything that way so relax and enjoy.

More information will be provided later so stay tuned and check the BBS for the latest news, gossip, programs and fun!

The membership cost is pro-rated for the rest of the year. Join now. Charter members will be offered a significant discount for 1986.

MEMBER WANT ADS

FOR SALE : 1526 Printer, \$190.00. Call Don Sharp after 6:00 PM. 277-9277.

BUTTERFIELD UTILITY

By Tony Velez

Do you have a lot of disks full of different types of programs that you would like to consolidate by your own requirements? Transferring each file one by one (first loading then saving to another disk) takes a lot of time.

There are several commercial programs available to make this task easy, however, the club library has a very good program called Unicopy, written by Jim Butterfield that will transfer files easily. And, Unicopy is FREE to members.

There are 3 items you will need to know to use Unicopy correctly. 1- Resident programs are Dos Wedges or anything that many take up memory. So be sure to turn off your computer before loading unicopy. This will give you up to 48k of transfer space. 2-The '*' is a wild card. If you want to check all the files hit return at the "*" prompt. If you want only certain files like the ones that start with a "D", type "d*" over the "*" prompt. This will only load those files that start with a "D". 3-The disk that you are going to transfer to MUST be for-matted. If you have any problems please call and I will be happy to help.

ON-LINE

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More on FIRSTTERM: Let's continue our exploration of the finer points of that great public domain terminal program, FIRSTTERM. Hopefully, you've tried the features we reviewed last month.

Programmable function keys can make your on-line sessions a real joy. A series of characters, sometimes called "macros", are transmitted at the touch of a key, saving you time, keystrokes, and the aggravation of correcting botched messages typed by hand. The assigned characters are typically passwords, frequently used commands to speed and simplify your electronic navigations, or some other messages (such as "HELP" or "Are you still there, dummy? ") which are convenient when chatting with friends. A more subtle, but valuable use of this feature, is to assign modem commands, such as automatic dialing sequences, to the keys, thus permitting full use of many standard modems, such as the Hayes series. FIRSTTERM offers you a total of 16 programmable function keys, plus a security option as an added bonus.

Here's how to implement FIRSTTERM's function key assignments. From the main menu, choose option E (Examine/Alter Function Keys.) The program will then prompt you for a password; don't panic. The default is "64", so enter this for now. Once you gain access to the function key screen you can change the password by pressing "p" and following the prompts. Why have a password? That's part of the security bonus! You see, several function key assignments may be confidential, such as secret passwords or ID numbers. If you are demonstrating an on-line session for your friends, or if someone else will be using your program (e.g. your employees during business applications) you probably don't want them to know, or change, the confidential information. However, they can still use the F key assignments without knowing what they are, as you will see in a moment.

Cont'd on Page 8

COMPUTER LITERACY

By Barbara Cramer

The word list below contains 65 words familiar to computer users of all ages. Find them all in the floppy disk - reading in a straight line forward, backward or in any direction diagonally.

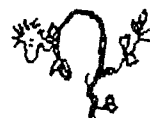
WORD LIST

ADDRESS
ARRAY
ASSEMBLER
ATTACK
BASIC
BINARY NUMBER
BYTE
CHARACTER STRING
COMAL
COMMODORE BUSINESS
MACHINES INC.
COMPILER
CONTROL KEY
CURSOR KEY
DATA BASE
DECAY
DISK DRIVE
EDIT MODE
ERROR MESSAGE
FILES
FIRE BUTTON
FUNCTION KEY
GAMES
GRAPHICS
HEXADECIMAL
HIGH RESOLUTION
INPUT
INTEGER
JOYSTICK
KERNAL
KEYBOARD
LIGHTPEN
LIST
LOAD
LOGO
MACHINE LANGUAGE
MEMORY
MODEM
MONITOR
MUSIC
NUMERIC KEYPAD
OPEN CHANNEL
PIXEL
POWER SUPPLY

DSCNISENIHCAMSSSENISUBERODOMMOCIRN
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LNDAAACYRWNONTLCYITRUMRTIRSSHEARS
RGSCCTRERRORMESSAGETGPMKCRHUIRNOT
SEIOHMEKEEGBNEARSCEAUONMEAEISSKMO
UETUAIELARIIDHM RTDBPIEYEOETGPO
NCLBTEPTENHTSU ETEEKCATRARATL
OERIIOAWACAIS HMIRRRIEAITIA
INIEFPCRAAOIP EBNEIRSSGNOTN
TECATEYMSDCMEI VEUTOPFEATGUUT
ULICONHCWDRNMSF AYMWSSCMBRCRE
LSSKUCIHARDGNUWEPSELAICEDAXEHNY
OOAMNHIRYEOINCNATRRIEPAFSEETIOPEE
SPBFPANIPSUCSRIIEIOCOMPILERACTADK
EEIATNRUNSTOPKEYCHLGNRSUWDRDRUDBE
RNRXHNLPIYACEDKRAVERIFYSEKOONOE
HGSREEHEOENTDEERILTOOATGRPNTSDAO
GHTOLLANKCITSYOJIEFIGSMEEREAIENFT
IOOMEIKERNALPADDAVRNOHTMETPWNDYOS
HWHYCESYERDASSEMBLERLWSEORLOLORE
XATNYSLTODOSTEMWDUALIUHRROMMPUER

PROGRAMMER
PROMPT
RANDOM
REGISTER
RELEASE
RESTORE KEY
RUN/STOP KEY
SAVE
SCREEN
SCROLLING
SID CHIP

SPREADSHEET
SPRITES
SUSTAIN
SYNTAX
SYS COMMAND
TELECOMMUNICATION
TOUCHPAD
USER PORT
VERIFY
WORD PROCESSOR



STARTEXT FEATURE

Gerry Barker

Ed. Note: What's new at Startext? Here's a look from editor Gerry Barker.

* **UPDATE FEATURE:** Several of you have asked for a special way to see the latest news updates on STARTEXT. Beginning today, you can do just that by requesting the keyword "UPDATE". Under it you'll find the most recent news updates in chronological order. UPDATE is designed as a quick reference guide to what's been updated last, not as a substitute for NEWS, which is where you'll still find the latest breaking stories of importance.

* **FILM LIBRARY:** Are you a movie buff? Then this one's for you. It's an electronic version of those books that give you plots and ratings for thousands of movies. Beginning Tuesday, July 23, you can type "FILM" or "FILMVAULT" at the request prompt and match for movie titles. To begin with, we'll have about 1,200 titles (including recent cable releases), to which we'll add about 200 a week. For more information, request "HELP.FILMS".

* **INTERFIRST:** InterFirst announced there are plans for a Dallas InterFirst bank to offer home banking in 1986 after the launch of the Fort Worth service. They also announced a reduced service fee for electronic banking.

* **GROLIER'S ONLINE ENCYCLOPEDIA:** STARTEXT is proud to announce the addition of Grolier's ACADEMIC AMERICAN ENCYCLOPEDIA, the most current and up-to-date online encyclopedia available today.

Beginning Sept. 1, subscribers will have the option of accessing more than 31,000 entries, encompassing 10 million words, updated every 90 days. This addition brings the resources of a research library as close as your home computer.

ACCESS IS EASY

Subscribers to the encyclopedia will have several options available for accessing this vast quantity of information.

* **SEARCH BY TOPIC.** If you know the title of the entry you want, you simply type it at the special prompt. The article will then be displayed for you.

* **RESEARCHING TOPICS.** If you want to scan a list of available topics, simply type FIND followed by 3 OR MORE characters

of the topic you are interested in. All matches will be displayed for you.

* **READING TOPICS.** After you have found the article you want, you have the option of typing in the title OR after a search, typing READ. plus the number of the article you want.

* **OTHER FEATURES.** You will also be able to request a topic summary of qualifying articles as a separate item, or access the bibliography as a separate item. You'll even be able to selectively read subtopics in a given article.

Of the 31,000 entries, over 13,000 have accompanying bibliographies indicating standard and recently published works to which users can turn for additional information.

Extensive cross-referencing adds to the ease with which articles can be accessed, and many articles have a SEE ALSO feature which guides you to other articles with relevant information.

Additionally, many topics are enhanced by having searchable terms displayed in UPPER-CASE LETTERS within the article, making it easy to find related topics.

AFFORDABLY PRICED

Families spend thousands of dollars for encyclopedias that are out of date as soon as they're purchased -- books that often go unused for long periods of time.

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start until you start receiving an article.

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When you're ready to subscribe, simply send us a check for the appropriate amount to: STARTEXT ENCYCLOPEDIA, P.O. BOX 1870, FORT WORTH, TX. 76101.

NEW LIBRARY DISKS

MCCC-FWNC-MMS

264

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*****
* SYS LOADER      SIMPLE SORT      64 CALCULATOR *
* INTRODUCTION!   KEYPAD MLX        *
* MENU            KEYPAD PRFRDR     *
* CAT MASTER      ENTRY BEEPER     *
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ARTFICAL INTELLI

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* *COMAL LANGUAGE* *BASIC PROGRAMS* *PUBLIC DOMAIN* *
* *****
* BOOT C64 COMAL  IDENTFY-ANIMAL  * INTELLIGENCE *
* C64 COMAL 0.14   TREE TRACKER   * PROGRAMS   *
* ---ERROR-MESS--- INSULTER      *              *
* HI               SIMULATION     * COMPILED BY *
* >--DATA FILES--< THERAPIST      *              *
* >--DO NOT LOAD--< DECIDE        * *VALERIE KRAMER*
* LANGUAGE NOTES   HEXAPAWN       * *P.O. BOX 10742*
* *               ELIZA.40        * *BURBANK, CA *
* *****
* * PGM IN COMAL * *****
* *****
* BOOT GUESS IT    *****
* ADV GUESS IT     AI.INSTRUCTIONS
* GUESS IT         GUESS IT INST
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SOFTWARE REVIEW

Courtesy of Babbage's

THE GREAT AMERICAN CROSS COUNTRY ROAD RACE-ACTIVISION

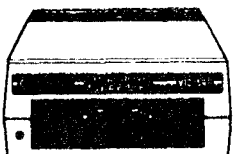
Activision Software has done it again. ROAD RACE isn't just another car race game although at first glance that's what it appears to be. The game will take you through 25 United States cities. You choose the route from several choices and then away you go.

During the game you will have to make split second decisions. The weather can get rough. Snow, fog, ice and rain make driving hazardous to you and your performance. You must plan your routes accordingly. Highway conditions vary greatly. Lane closures, road work or even oil slicks mean trouble, so you'll really need to keep your eyes open. Speed traps seem to pop up when you least expect them. You can either mind your speed limit or if you're daring, make a run for it. Make sure you watch your gas guage. An empty tank means you will need to push your car to the next gas station. This will obviously have disastrous effects on your time. Rush hour around cities can be a nightmare. Try and plan your arrivals and departures to avoid costly jam-ups. Maximum RPM is around 9,500. When shifting gears, don't push to hard, or you will blow out the engine. The time to begin the race is as critical as any part of the game. Starting at the wrong hour may mean winding up on an icy road in the middle of the night.

The Great American Cross Country Road Race is Activision's best recent effort and certainly gives Commodore owners another exciting game to enjoy!

THANK YOU, SOF-TEX

The MCCC would like to express our thanks to Roger Hoggard of Sof-Tex for servicing and repairing club equipment at no charge. Roger's excellent workmanship and continuing generosity have played a major role in the smooth operation of many club activities which are easily taken for granted.



SOF-TEX

Disk Drive Service

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Available

ROGER HOGGARD
(817) 281-2608

The 16 programmable keys are the usual F keys, alone and shifted with the "SHIFT", "CTRL" and Commodore logo keys. At the function key screen, press the F key or shifted F key of your choice and follow the prompts. Be aware that there are two limitations to an F key designation; you can use no more than 28 characters and you cannot (from the key-board) give it control codes. The program simply ignores excess keystrokes, as well as keys typed in combination with the CTRL key. However, you can evade the control code limit by temporarily earmarking easily recognized "dummy" characters to your target keys. For example, if you wish to tag Control-A to F1, start by assigning it the letter "A". Then, save all program parameters to a disk file--main menu option F-- using program defaults for everything else. Next, use a disk block or sequential file editor to find the "A" and change it to whatever control code (in our example chr\$(1)) you choose. Finally, reload the file to FIRSTTERM and modify other saveable parameters as needed, making sure not to change the F key which has the control code; the procedure is cumbersome but practical for someone determined to assign that control code.

The program lets you append a return character to an F key string, and kill or keep its screen echo. Confidential material should not, of course, be echoed. At first, the echo option might seem unnecessary because most on-line hosts don't display passwords anyway. However, unless the program itself censors your message, someone could mischievously trot off-line in half-duplex and press the various F keys to read their contents; he or she would not even have to know the password to the function key assignment screen. With echo suppression, one could send but not read F key text. By the way, in case you forget which messages have echo suppression or which end in carriage returns, the display chart of the F key screen brackets suppressed text with bar characters and appends a bracketed carriage return notation as applicable.

Function key strings/password, along with communications parameters, screen-text colors, and the phone number directory, can be saved to disk for later retrieval by using the main menu option F. Thus, you can prepare customized FIRSTTERM files for different correspondents.

Control codes, frequently used for various purposes in telecommunications, have to do with such housekeeping chores as signaling your host to stop, pause or resume a message, ring a bell or drop the cursor. The ASCII pause symbol, for example, is Control-S (ASCII value 19). FIRSTTERM honors most control codes in a standard way. One exception is Control-T, Device Control 4/value 20 in true ASCII parlance, which FIRSTTERM treats as ASCII 8, a backspace. Try it. As we reviewed in last month's column, in terminal mode, off-line/half-duplex, hold down the CTRL key and hit "t"; the outgoing character code on the status line will still be 008. While this situation is normally insignificant, someone did encounter a BBS that required CONTROL-T as a log on flag; the special F key assignment procedure described above was no help because FIRSTTERM translated chr\$(20) to chr\$(8) before sending the character; can't win them all!

Despite the CONTROL-T limit, FIRSTTERM conveniently supports several additional codes. In terminal mode, pressing the STOP key sends ASCII pause (chr\$(19)); CTRL-: sends escape (chr\$(27)); CTRL - British pound sends chr\$(28), ASCII file separator; CTRL - up arrow yields chr\$(30), record separator; the unit separator, chr\$(31) is produced by CTRL-=.

Control codes are normally not shown on a screen. However, FIRSTTERM has the unique option of displaying most of them, as reversed video letters. To activate-deactivate this feature, in terminal mode, hold down the Commodore key and press "d". The status line "D" goes reverse video when the option is on. Try it (off-line/half-duplex); then hold down the CTRL key and hit "a"; a reverse video "A" will appear. Hit CTRL-G, the "bell" character. Try CTRL-M; a reverse M is not shown because this code, a carriage return, affects the screen display itself. Turn the option off (Commodore-d again) and press CTRL-a once more; nothing shows up this time, but the character out code reads 001 showing that Control-A was, indeed, transmitted.

FIRSTTERM can also send and receive several other standard ASCII characters that typical terminal programs simply cannot: the left arrow sends underline; shifted "+" sends the left curly bracket; shifted "-" produces a right curly bracket.

et. Try the up arrow by itself to generate a circ_u. The British pound sign yields a backslash.

This review has by no means covered all of the program's facets. However, I hope that by now you can appreciate some of its more subtle points so you can get the most from FIRSTTERM.

ATTENTION COMMODORE USER GROUPS: ON-LINE is available for publication in your newsletter. For details write to:

Paul J. Motise
6 Whetstone Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

LARRY GROEBE

Literally years of waiting, Commodore announced the Amiga computer on July 24.

Let's put it plain and simple: this is the most spectacular computer Commodore has ever made. This new machine shines with a pretty blinding light.

It really does. You want graphics? You got em. Sound? That too. Speed? Faster than an IBM-AT. Power? It's multitasking. Expandability? Up to 8 megabytes of memory. Price? Cheaper than the other players in the major leagues.

Here's what the Amiga is: A box that looks more like an IBM-PC than anything CBM has put out in the past. There's a detached keyboard with cursor keys, numeric keypad, function keys, the works. You get a mouse. Also, a built-in 3.5" disk drive that stores 880K.

What goes on inside the box is more exciting than the outside appearance. Here is where the Amiga pushes the state-of-the-art. The heart of the computer is a 68000, the same 32-bit processor that drives Apple's Macintosh and many UNIX-based computers. It directly access the 256K of built-in RAM. An additional 256K can be plugged into a slot on the front of the machine, and a total of 8K could be accessed directly via an outboard memory box.

With a clock speed of 8mhz, the Amiga is blindingly fast - faster than the

Mac or the PC. Better still, all of this computer's spectacular graphics work is handled by three amazing custom integrated circuits. The 68000 processor just sends them some instructions, which they then execute on their own without further help.

What this gives you is the ability to generate pictures in 320*200 resolution and your choice of 32 colors, selected from over 4000(!), then animate those drawings without slowing the computer down. You can divide the screen up into as many as 50 windows and move around between them. Intuition, the Amiga's operating system burned into its chips, is designed to let you perform multitasking - doing two (or more) things at once.

The Amiga sound circuits provide stereo audio, with two voices in the left speaker and two in the right. Each voice is the equivalent of a SID chip in it's own right, meaning 12-part harmony will be possible.

The audiovisual capabilities mean the Amiga should find a good niche in the home market. The speed, memory, and sophisticated operating system capabilities mean the Amiga could outrun most business machines.

Which leaves the price. \$1295 is not cheap, but for a machine which can do things no other machine can do, it seems reasonable.

It's coming to a store near you before Christmas.

There is going to be a LOT of press coverage of this computer in the next few months (in fact, there's going to be a whole magazine devoted exclusively to it starting this month). But while you read the same old facts reeled over and over again, here are some other things to consider.

1) This is the first CBM computer that people from the 'real world' (read: IBM and APPLE) are paying heed to. Consultants and industry pundits are praising this machine, and seem genuinely excited by it. Which is great - CBM needs all the respectability it can get.

2) Note how many of the Amiga's features come standard. This was a very smart move. An IBM-PC can display more colors on-screen IF you have the proper adapter...but how many people have it? On

the Amiga, *everyone* has 256K, all the colors, all the sound, the mouse and the multitasking.

3) Speaking of multitasking...it will be interesting to see what this feature could do for the home. Finally we have a machine that can monitor the house energy consumption, simultaneously call Startext for local news and weather, AND play a game of "SkyFox" - at the same time!

4) You can have up to 32 colors on the screen at once. These are selected from a total range of 4096(!). While the idea of painting with whole ranges of colors instead of only a few garish primary hues is enticing, the idea that we can use 32 shades of gray also has appeal. This is a sufficient gray scale to produce photographic- (or television-) quality realism.

And Commodore is indeed thinking about television, since the Amiga already contains about half the hardware to display and overlay television pictures on top of computer-generated graphics.

Two final questions are less exciting, but also interesting.

1) Will the shine of the Amiga dim the luster of the C128? I have no definitive answer--but yes it could. The C128 could end up in the same unenviable position as the the Plus-4 did when the 128 itself was introduced: being a poor cousin. Against the thoroughly modern Amiga, the C128 looks a bit stale, like yesterday's news. On the other hand, the \$1000 price difference between the two machines counts for something, too.

2) Finally - In today's computer market, can the Amiga make it? Some think it's too high-priced for a home computer. Others think business will shy away from a computer made by Commodore. Still others worry because the machine is incompatible with anything else on the market.

For myself, I think the Amiga will succeed, and spectacularly. Ultimately, innovation - and this machine has it - ALWAYS wins out in the end.

SOFT-TEX WINNERS!

The two winners of the MCCC Bulletin Board Membership donated by Roger Hoggard of Soft-Tex at the July quarterly meeting are J.M. Marshall of Ft. Worth and Dannie Scates of Hurst. Congratulations!

LIBRARY NEWS

by Tony Velez

It has been several months since we published the disk directories in our newsletter but this month we have had quite a few additions to the library. I cannot review all the disks since they have so many different types of programs on each. However, there are several that I would like to comment on. They are listed by their MCCC numbers.

#261 - This is another music disk and it includes the following songs: The Gambler, We Are The World and The Theme from 2001.

#264 - A utility package by Bob Lawson that includes a fast and user-friendly sort routine.

#412 & 413 - Both disks are full of machine language routines and programs.

#525 - This is a computer literacy disk which defines many of the BASIC keywords and also includes an EZ-SCRIPT tutor.

COMPUT. LITERACY 525

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*****
* DOS LOADER                               *
* &                                         *
* ^ ^ ABOVE LOADS ^ ( BEGINNER ) PRG 1    *
* * WEDGE & MENU *  EZ SCPT TUTOR 2  PRG 2  *
* *****          * ( INTERMEDIATE ) PRG 3  *
*                                         *
* JHF FILE READER  (OTHER PRINTER )      *
* * ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ *  EZ SCPT REF 130  AND FOR MEMBERS *
* * USE TO READ * ( NEEDS TINY )         OF *
* * SEQ FILES * ( 17 PT TYPE ) ----- *
* *****          *
*                                         *
* A BASIC PRIMER      PO BOX 32548      *
* ! HELP FILES !      FOLLOWS          TUCSON, AZ 85751 *
* ! FOLLOW !          *****          *
*                                         *
* BASIC TRAINING      (C) 1985          *
* LTR TO NEW CBM 0    FOR/NEXT DRILL    *
* GENERAL RULES      COLOR FLASH DEMO  USER GROUPS MAY *
* DISK PRIMER        SELF SAVER        COPY FREE *
* PRINTER PRIMER     KEYWORDS          NOT FOR SALE *
* WEDGE PRIMER      BASIC BASIC 1      ----- *
* WILDCARDS         BASIC BASIC 2      PLEASE LEAVE *
*                                         *
* !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! *COMPLETE BASIC* *****          *
* ! WORD PROCESS ! * KEYWORDS *          *
* ! EASY SCRIPT ! * TUTOR *          *
*****

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CHAPTER NEWS

HURST-EULESS-BEDFORD

The H-E-B Chapter will meet on August 17 at the Hurst Civic Center. A program entitled "WHAT IS CP/M?" will be presented. If available, the C-128 will be on display.-Laura Clements

ARLINGTON

The next meeting will be held August 10: 00 AM, August 10 at the downtown Arlington Library. The program will be the long awaited C-64 keyboard hardware presentation by Steve Fogolini.

The chapter would like to thank Jim McClure for sharing his knowledge of C-64 graphics, transparent overlays and 35mm photography. The result of his efforts was a slide show of sufficient quality to be used for professional presentations.-Charlie Davidson

FORT WORTH NIGHT

Ray Montoro will have a music demonstration at our August 19th meeting.-Bruce Umbreit

GRAND PRAIRIE

The chapter will meet at the Grand Prairie Public Library, Saturday August 10 at 1:30 PM. John Ference and John Brodie will present a program on telecommunication software. The usual Tuesday evening session will be held August 20 from 6: 00 to 9:00 PM at the same library.-Ray Sloan

NEW LIBRARY DISKS

TPUG MAY 85.C
830

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*****
* MENU.C          ANIMAL INIT.C    X-WORD FILE.D  *
* MENUML          QUESTIONS        ----- *
* MENUFILE        ANSWERS          CALENDAR.C        *
* DOCFILE         ----- *
* -----        TENNIS STAT VI.C  GOLF DOC.C      *
* - TPUG          - TENNIS INST.C  COURSE UPDATE   *
* - COMMODORE 64 - -----        GOLF HANDICAP     *
* - MAY 1985      - LIST-ME QUIZ.L  ----- *
* - MONTHLY DISK - QUIZ.C          WORLD CONQUEST.C *
* -----        PRINT QUIZ.C      ----- *
* - PREPARED BY - -----        FUNK ROCK.C        *
* -----        POOL LOADER.C     ----- *
* -DAVID BRADLEY- PODL2            - BEST REGARDS - *
* ----- *
* NORTHRUP DOWNS.C TYPE IT.C      -DAVID BRADLEY- *
* HR ----- *
* -----        , TYPY TOES.C     *
* LIST-ME ANIMAL.L ----- *
* ANIMAL.C        CROSSWORD.C      *
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* MENUML          MENDUMP828.C      DUMP3-M/L.D    *
* MENUFILE        MENDUMPDEMO.C     DUMP3-SRC.D    *
* DOCFILE         MEMCOMPARE INS.C  C-64 PICTURE.D *
* DOC PRINTER.C   MEMCOMPARE.C      DISK HOUSE.C   *
* PRES.RS232.C    SPSCR-BAS INS.C   BASIC KEYWORDS.C *
* PRES.GIZMO.C    SPSCR-BAS.C       MORTGAGE.C     *
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